S. E. H. GOSTICK,
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MONTON, ALBErta.

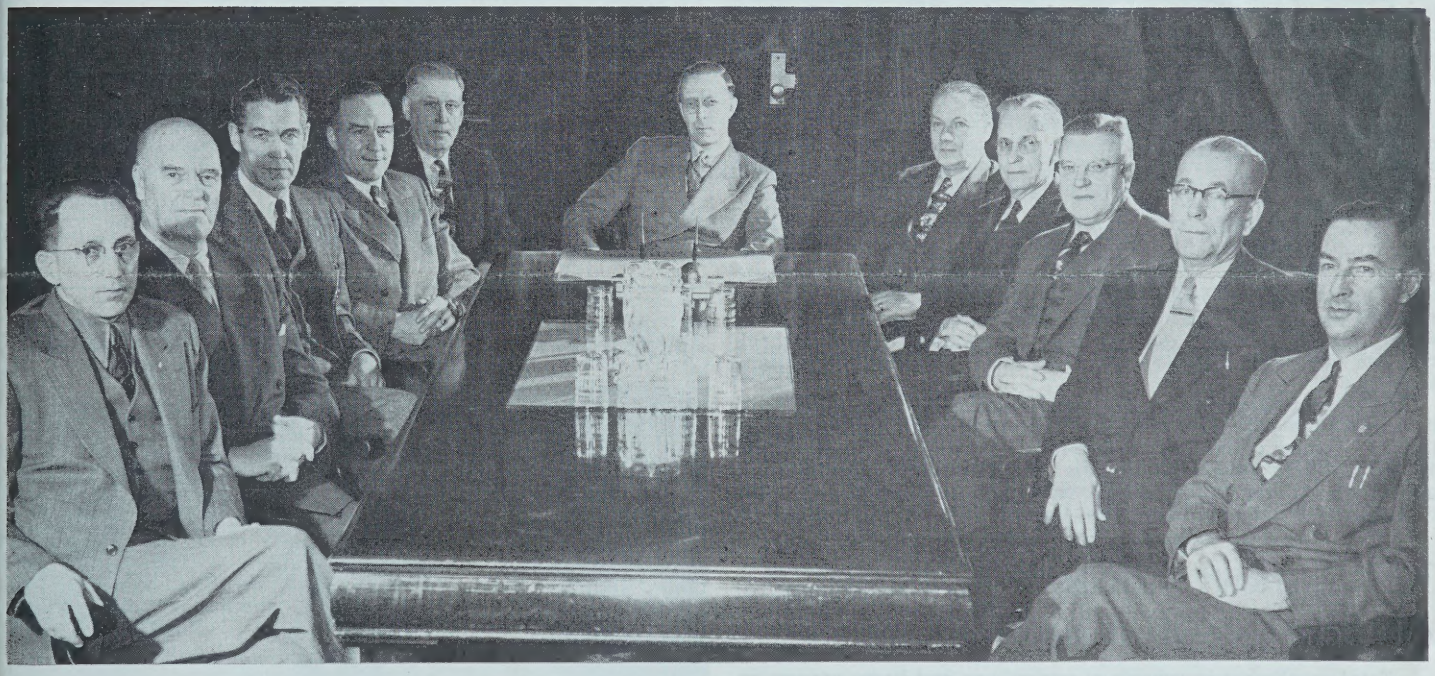
WITHIN OUR BORDERS

Highway Map
Executive Council
Grasshoppers

Rat Invasion
Clay Deposits Survey
School Books Branch

VOL. 4 FEBRUARY 1, 1952 No. 16

The Executive Council Of Alberta



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Hon. IVAN CASEY (Education)

Hon. GORDON TAYLOR (Highways and Telephones)

This is the first group photograph of all members of the Executive Council of the Government of Alberta and was taken in January of this year. A copy of the photograph with concise reference material pertaining to Alberta on the reverse side, may be obtained on request from the Publicity Bureau, Department of Economic Affairs, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

School Books Sold At Cost Through Services Of Branch

School books for Grades 1 to 12 are distributed by the School-Book Branch of the Department of Education, the largest distributor of school books west of Toronto.

WILLIAM H. NOBLE

The "Alberta Children's Bookhouse," as it is often called, is situated on the ground floor of the Public Works Building in West Edmonton. Since its beginning in 1914, it has developed into a book supply depot, which, for sales volume, and the variety and quantity of books available, cannot be matched in western Canada. Approximately 3,000 different titles are listed by the branch and many of these titles are stocked in thousands of copies.

The branch supplies 174,000 students and 6,250 teachers with the books required in their studies. These books are purchased from approximately 300 different publishers and 90 percent of the books are obtained from agents or publishers in Canada.

Reference, library and text books are sold to students and teachers at the lowest prices possible with 250 retail booksellers and all the various school districts and divisions handling the distribution. Students who cannot reach book stores can get their books through the branch's mail order service.

Books are sold at cost because the Government of Alberta derives no revenue from the sale of school-books. After the expenses of operating the school-book branch are met, the books are sold at a standard price throughout Alberta. Students and school boards can buy authorized books at uniform prices whatever their location in the Province.

Prices of school-books are kept low because the branch is able to buy most of its supplies by the carload lot. A liberal wholesale discount is offered to school boards on library books and on textbooks purchased for resale to students. The branch insists that students be allowed to purchase their textbooks at actual cost from school boards. Because of this discount policy, Alberta school children and their parents are saved many thousands of dollars each year.

William H. Noble, who has been Manager of the School-Book Branch for the past 36 years, is retiring in March. He has guided the development of the branch since its organization and has worked energetically to extend its services. Mr. Noble's long association and broad experience in the book trade have earned him the title of "Dean of Bookmen," in western Canada. ●

384 Students Enrolled At Schools Of Agriculture

Total enrollment in schools of agriculture and home economics in Alberta totalled 384 students for the 1951 - 52 term, an increase of 17 over last term.

Enrollment at both Olds and Vermilion decreased from last term, with the addition of the new school at Fairview responsible for the increase.

The late harvest and failure of many farmers to get their crops off the fields before winter are the main causes of the decreased attendance at Olds and Vermilion. Actual application showed an increase over last term, but the poor season forced many cancellations.

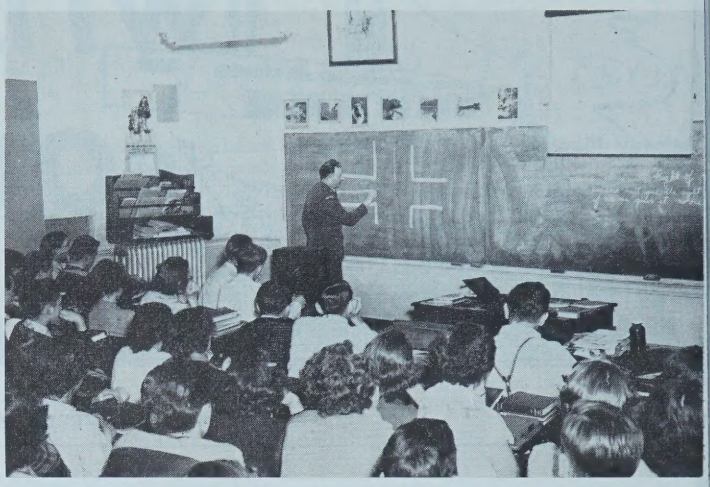
Enrollment at the school at Olds this term is 170 students (119 boys and 51 girls), while enrollment at Vermilion is 161 students (118 boys and 43 girls). The new Fairview school recorded a total enrollment of 53 first-year students; (35 boys and 18 girls). ●

"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration and services of the Alberta Government.

It is believed the many and varied services of the Government will be effective in the degree they are known and used.

Any material used is for immediate republication. All photographs used are Alberta Government Photographs unless otherwise specified.

Correspondence should be addressed to "Within Our Borders," Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.



The Provincial Highway Safety Education Unit, set up recently by the Motor Vehicle Branch of the Provincial Secretary's Department to instruct high school students in safe driving practices, has been busy touring the Province. To date, 25 schools have requested the services of Inspector P. J. Rowan, who is in charge of the unit, and lectures and safety films have been given to more than 2,000 children. In this photograph, taken at Mundare High School, Inspector Rowan is demonstrating the correct procedure when approaching an intersection to an interested class.

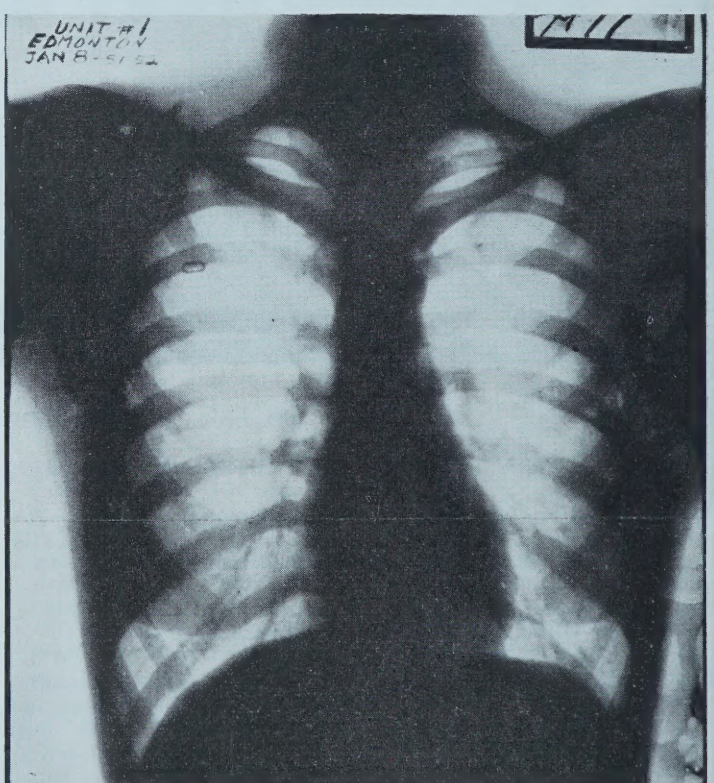
FUND PAYMENTS

Total payments out of the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund from April to Dec. 31, 1951, were $198,357. Collections for the fund, for which each operator of a motor vehicle in Alberta is assessed $1 annually, totalled $242,931. ●

NATIVE MELODIES

Native melodies from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and the Isle of Man are being presented Sunday mornings at 11:30 from CKUA, the Alberta Government radio station at Edmonton.

Each program during the month deals with the favorite songs of one of the four countries. ●



This is the X-ray plate of the 800,000th person to be checked by the Free Chest X-ray Unit during its nine years' operation in Alberta. It belongs to Mrs. Marjorie Creighton, 9620 - 82 Ave., Edmonton, who was among the several hundred tested at King Edward School recently. The unit operates through the co-operation of the Kinsmen Club, Alberta Tuberculosis Association and the Alberta Department of Health and has visited every part of the Province where the unit could be transported. The above X-ray plate shows no sign of tuberculosis, which would be revealed by dark spots on the lungs.

Months Of Work

Map Gives Latest Details On Highways

Production Is A Major Task For Highways Department Draftsmen; More Than 15,000 Copies Distributed In Province

A wealth of information about Alberta highways, tourist attractions, mileages and general road information is provided in the official road map of the Alberta Government.

This colorful folder reaches more than 150,000 tourists, Alberta citizens and travellers annually, and provides accurate and up-to-date information about main and district highways.

The compiling and drafting of this map takes months of checking and re-checking by the Main Highways Branch, Department of Highways. Every highway, ferry, gas and oil area, park and summer resort must be checked every year to note any changes or developments which may have taken place.

A completely new base map is prepared about every five or six years, and is altered and amended for annual printings.

A Major Undertaking

The preparation of a new base map is a major undertaking which takes months of work by special map draftsmen of the Main Highways Branch. First, photostats of topographical maps and latest provincial and state highway maps are reduced to the scale of 12 miles to one inch and are sent to Alberta's 54 municipal districts and three counties for additions and corrections and for identification of graded and gravelled roads in each area. In addition, government departments controlling the 52 improvement districts and three special areas check all maps of these districts.

The final maps are fitted together and are transferred to tracing linen which will become the base map. The numerous rivers, lakes and highways are inked in and prepared for identification.

A close study of the official road map will reveal that many different kinds and sizes of letters are used to identify the various points on the map. This is all part of a carefully laid plan, so that cities, towns, villages and hamlets have the size of lettering that indicate their importance.

Thirty Miles in a Square Inch

There are many more names on a road map than the average person realizes. An area 30 miles square is represented by one square inch on the map. For example, approximately one square inch near Wetaskiwin holds a city, a town, five villages, a hamlet, three lakes and an oilfield. In addition there are numerous mileages listed on main highways cutting through this tiny one-inch square portion of the map.

The variety in lettering avoids monotony in the map and gives a better overall appearance to the finished product. All maps are set in type and printed on sheets, then cut out and glued to the base map. The pasting in itself is a tedious undertaking, and hours of fitting and re-fitting are necessary before all names can be arranged in a clear pattern.

Five Colors

The completed product then is photographed and separated for printing in five colors—light and dark blue, black, red and yellow.

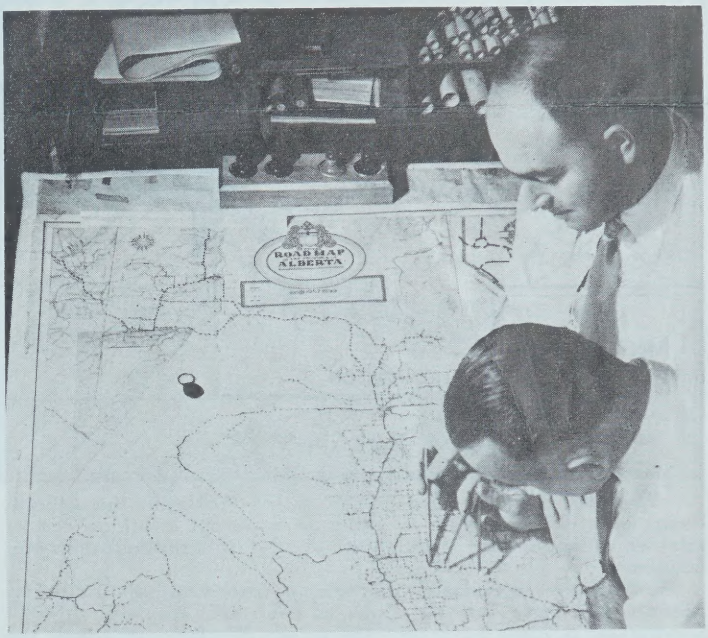
The reverse side of the folder contains a large mileage chart tabulating distances between major Alberta cities and towns via trunk roads, and another showing distances between Alberta cities and major Canadian and American points. These charts are the result of about 10,000 computations of individual mileages and each total is made up of many individual mileages.

There is also an alphabetical index of cities, towns and villages in Alberta with a guide to find them on the map. There are maps of Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, showing main routes through the cities and to local points of interest.

Another map shows the Mackenzie Highway (Highway No. 35) from Grimshaw to the south shore of Great Slave Lake, and lists mileages and settlements along the route.

Highway Signs

Standard highway signs are identified for the convenience of tourists, and places of interest are mentioned in separate columns. Also for tourists are articles on game and sport fishing attractions in Alberta, tourist camps (giving ratings) and regulations for American tourists regarding customs duties, use of automobiles and firearms, ports of entry, and summer roads in the mountains. Other information regarding registration and flight is listed for private pilots.



Base map of Alberta is checked by George Audley, Chief Draftsman, Department of Highways, while William Horbay, Senior Map Draftsman, uses dividers to compute a road mileage.

Information concerning tourist traffic is compiled by the Alberta Government Travel Bureau which works in co-operation with the Department of Highways in preparing the map.

The cover pictures play an important part in dressing up the folder. These are Alberta scenes photographed in color and produced in more than 12 different shades, by use of the four base colors.

150,000 Copies Printed

When the map is completed, about 150,000 copies are printed for distribution throughout the Province. The Alberta Government Travel Bureau places maps in tourist resorts, service stations, tourist information bureaus, trucking companies, and numerous other outlets.

Up-to-date copies are sent to major map producing companies in Canada and the United States each year for changing their base maps to conform with latest highway developments in this Province.

Used by Trucking Companies

Proof of the accuracy of mileages is shown by the fact that trucking companies operating in Alberta use the official road map as a basis for compiling their trucking freight rates.

Every year the base map is revised and reprinted to show changes in roads, development of the highway program and additions to gas and oil areas, bridges replacing ferries, parks and other features.

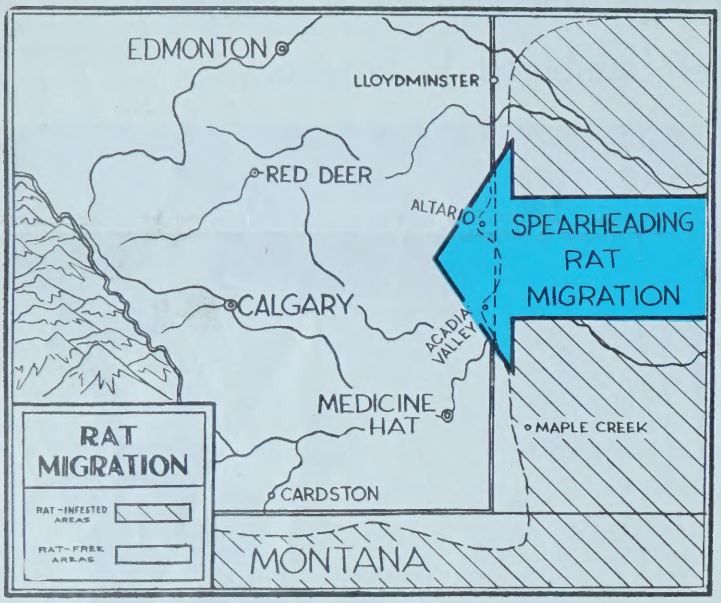
Copies of the past year's map are sent to Montana, Idaho, Washington, Saskatchewan and British Columbia for any changes and revisions of their area shown on the Alberta map. Other copies are mailed to the National Parks, Provincial Parks Board, Department of Mines and Minerals, and district engineers, to mark any pertinent changes.

In all, about 50 sources of information are used in revising the map annually. In preparing a base map, about 150 sources are needed. In addition, a new mileage chart is computed each year. It would be almost impossible to make corrections in existing charts, as a slight change in a highway would change the whole set of computations.

When it is completed, Alberta's official road map is the most accurate and useful produced for use in the Province. ●

The Rats Are Coming

Warfarin And Public Vigilance Main Defences Against Rodents Invading Eastern Alberta Borders



With the use of a new poison called Warfarin, the Alberta Department of Agriculture is trying to wipe out a bridgehead of rats which have been established on the Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary.

Unless the established rat colonies are eliminated quickly, Alberta will have lost the fight to keep the Province rat-free. Department officials hope that the poison Warfarin will turn the trick and that by spring the Province will again be clear of the plague-packing rodents.

Warfarin will be baited at every rat run and rat hole in the two areas at present infested. Farmers living near the Alberta-Saskatchewan border have been urged to report any suspected signs of rats, and educational campaigns have been conducted for months throughout Alberta to show the public what a Norway rat looks like, and to encourage them to report immediately the presence of any of these pests.

Warfarin is a coined name comprised of the initials of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, plus "arin," indicating that the substance is a member of the coumarin group. A bait of even quantities of rolled oats and corn meal is mixed in the ratio of one part warfarin to 19 parts meal, and spread out in rat-infested areas.

Warfarin first was used in Alberta a year ago to wipe out a suspected rat colony at Paradise Valley. It was discovered later that mice were causing the damage that had been attributed to rats. The poison was successful in eliminating the smaller rodent.

The poison causes death through internal bleeding when the coumarin in the poison prevents the blood from coagulating. The bait is superior to other methods in that the rats do not become aware that it is poisonous. They seem to enjoy the flavor of the poison and always return for more. Usually three or four feedings of the poisoned bait are required to kill an average rat.

The two existing colonies in Alberta are located near Altario and Acadia Valley, a few miles west of the Saskatchewan boundary. Both colonies likely contain less than two dozen rats and are located on farms in sparsely populated areas.

The main danger area is located along the border between Provost and Empress, where rats are attempting to penetrate in numbers. Last summer, meetings and schools on rats were held throughout the area and more than 200 farmers and townspeople were show how to prevent the entrance of rats into Alberta.

Most villages in the area have a pest control officer, and the Special Areas field men act as pest control officers for the whole district. The poison is supplied by the Department of Agriculture through offices of the District Agriculturists.

Thirty years ago, Saskatchewan also was a rat-free province. But since that time, the rodents have made steady progress westward, until they reached the Alberta border in the summer of 1950. The mass migration of rats moves from eight to 10 miles a year, but through constant vigilance along the border, every rat entering Alberta faces extermination. The Department of Agriculture is using every available method of control to keep them out of the Province.

At present, neither rat colony in Alberta is firmly established, and by using Warfarin, officials hope both will be exterminated before spring. A female rat is capable of producing a litter of five to 12 young each month, so that an established colony could increase rapidly. It is estimated that if a pair of rats were left unmolested for three years, their progeny would number about 3,500,000.

Alberta is the only province in Canada which has made rat control the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture. This department works in co-operation with the Department of Health to keep rats from both rural and urban areas. While district agriculturists and field men closely watch for any influx of rats on farms and country areas, the Department of Health does its share in protecting towns and cities.

The rat is one of man's most costly and deadly enemies. Each year, more than $3,000,000,000 is lost by rat damage in the United States, and in Canada the loss is estimated at some $275,000,000.

The damage is not only caused by what a rat eats, but also in what he spoils. It has been estimated that for every five pounds of food a rat eats, another 15 to 40 pounds is spoiled. Rats, if established in Alberta, might easily cause millions of dollars damage a year, and cost many thousands more in rat control programs.

In addition to its costly damage, the rat is a dangerous carrier of disease. It was the lowly rat that spread the bubonic plague or "Black Death" through Europe during the 14th and 15th centuries, wiping out more than 25,000,000 people, or a quarter of that continent's population.

A rat is seldom seen, either living or dead. Rats that have been poisoned by Warfarin usually die in some secluded place, and only when the bait is left untouched for days can experts be sure the colony has been eliminated. Living rats usually feed at night, and scurry away at the first sign of danger. Only the tracks and damage show he has ever been there.

With the full co-operation of every Alberta citizen, Alberta can become and remain rat-free. Any signs or suspicions of rats should be reported immediately to the local pest control officer, district agriculturist, health officer, or to the Field Crops Branch, Department of Agriculture, Edmonton. ●

Relief From Grasshoppers Expected This Year

Alberta farmers won't have as many grasshoppers to bother them this year as in 1951. Effective control measures and unfavorable weather during last year are responsible for the decrease in grasshoppers.

During this year, grasshoppers will cover an area of approximately 2,500,000 acres; in 1951 the crop-damaging insects spread over more than 11,000,000 acres. Even in this reduced area only light infestations are expected.

Southern and eastern districts of Alberta will be the chief districts affected this year—especially around Bodo, Hemaruka, Coronation, Craigmyle, Three Hills, Irricana-Conrich and east of Carmangay.

Types of grasshoppers will vary with the areas. Between Calgary and Lethbridge, lesser migratory and two-striped grasshoppers will be the main types. ●

Cypress Hills Clay Deposits Described In New Survey

Clay deposits of the Elkwater Lake area of south-eastern Alberta are discussed in detail in a new publication of the Research Council of Alberta.

The Elkwater Lake area is taken up mainly by the Cypress Hills area, which contains deposits of stoneware clay, fire clay and other high grade clays. During 1948, the Research Council examined and sampled the clay formations of the Cypress Hills to determine whether commercial clays were available in Alberta, and especially if these were available close to Medicine Hat, centre of western Canada's ceramics industry. Most of the clay used by Medicine Hat industry is brought in from Saskatchewan, eastern Canada and the United States.

Clay deposits of proven and possible economic value occur throughout the length of the Cypress hills, both in Saskatchewan and Alberta. ●

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